

There is no universal reaction to experiencing trauma. The Vera Institute of Justice, working with DeafHope, offers extensive training for interpreters for the Deaf who work in situations related to domestic violence. Two of our court interpreters, Leann Smith and Gail Masek, have participated in this training and found it extremely beneficial. The training focuses on respecting the individual journeys of survivors. Techniques are taught that interpreters can incorporate while interpreting for survivors, being sensitive to the possible emotions and fears of those survivors. Additionally, the 13 hour training teaches ASL interpreters how to care for themselves while working in emotionally difficult situations. Interpreters learn aspects of consideration to avoid conflict of interests and personal safety considerations of working with DV perpetrators. Leann and Gail were able to share what they learned from this seminar by consulting with DeafHope's Amber Hodson, to develop a workshop and then teaching this content to interpreters in Tucson and Phoenix. The training offered by Vera Institute of Justice is an excellent and effective resource for interpreters working with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community in the area of domestic violence.

Written by: Gail Masek & Leann Smith